

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

# INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

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**SUBJECT** Military Unit 2956 Sd in Strzegom

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. Polish Army unit No. 2956 Sd is a light artillery and rocket regiment of about 1,200 men stationed at Strzegom (R51/V29). Major (fnu) Jacek is the commanding officer. The regiment consists of four batteries of 122-millimeter guns. It has 16 guns and 16 howitzers. The regiment has a headquarters battery, a non-commissioned officers' artillery firing school of about 120 men and an NCO's special school. The special school includes a reconnaissance platoon, communications platoon and topographic platoon. The unit also includes a mechanized force and a rocket company of 150 men.
2. The rocket company is equipped with 24 Katyusza (Katiusza) type rockets.1 Members of the company were Communist Party members. They were told during lectures that under no circumstances should their weapon fall into the hands of the enemy and that it should be destroyed if the possibility existed.
3. Each battery has four 122-millimeter guns and four howitzers of the same caliber; the weapons have rubber-rimmed wheels and are attachable to vehicles. Soldiers in the fire (sic) batteries are equipped with Maxim heavy machine guns and machine pistols; the commander of each gun crew is armed with a pistol.
4. The headquarters battery has four platoons. The reconnaissance platoon is equipped with Russian machine pistols and pistols. It also has reconnaissance periscopes, compasses, field glasses and scissor-type **goniometers**. In winter, the platoon wears white coveralls. There are also a communications platoon, topographic platoon and radar platoon in the headquarters battery.
5. The mechanized unit has some 50 trucks of various types, mostly three-ton American Studebakers; the remainder are Russian ZIS. About 10 jeeps are also attached to this unit; they are similar to the American Willys.

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6. The following are known personnel in the unit:
- a) Commander of the NCO's schools - Capt. (fnu) Szelag, about 50.
  - b) Commander of headquarters battery - Capt. (fnu) Ziemicki, about 55.
  - c) Commander of reconnaissance platoon - W/O Lewicki, about 30.
  - d) Commander of topographic platoon - W/O Stug, about 40.
  - e) Commander of communications platoon - W/O Blaszkiewicz, about 35.
7. The NCO's special school lasts nine months; a corporality is given upon completion of the course with good marks. In the school's reconnaissance platoon, lectures on the KB carbine, hand and machine pistols were given; more attention, however, was paid to the map-reading courses. Political lectures were very frequent.
8. A Russian general, (fnu) Barynow, assumed command of the Wroclaw Military Area (DOW) in early 1952. The general visited the Strzegom unit and inspected the special school. It is reported that Barynow does not speak Polish.
9. Two issues of the Polish Soldier (Zolnierz Polski) are allegedly printed - one for civilian and one for military consumption. The issue for soldiers cannot be taken out of the barracks. Its text is considered secret (sic). The paper contains articles on subjects with which the troops are required to be familiar; it also contains exact descriptions of various weapons.
10. All ammunition stores for Unit 2956 Sd are about 15 kilometer away from Strzegom. Guards are on duty at the dump for 24 hours at a time.
1. [REDACTED] Comment: These are presumably rocket-launchers; they may be of the Katushka type.
2. [REDACTED] Comment: A recent report mentioning Barynow stated that he was an assistant to General Jan Suchow who in December 1951 was head of the Chief Inspectorate of the Armored Troops.

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